

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 20 are pending and under consideration in the above-identified application.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 – 20 were rejected.

In this Amendment, Claims 1, 5, 6, 8 – 12, 14 – 17, and 19 - 20 are amended. No new matter has been introduced as a result of this amendment.

Accordingly, Claims 1 – 20 remain at issue.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Indefiniteness Rejection of Claims

Claims 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants have amended Claims 5 and 9 to remove these rejections related to insufficient antecedent basis.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims 1-13 and 19-20

Claims 1-13 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Boltz et al. ("Boltz") (U.S. Patent No. 6,081,731). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to an information processing system. The information processing system comprises a first information processing apparatus, a second information processing apparatus, installed in each of a plurality of areas, for authenticating said first information processing apparatus in a target area; and a third information processing apparatus for providing content to said first information processing apparatus.

Claim 1 recites "said first information apparatus, said second information apparatus, and said third information processing apparatus being interconnected via a network, said first information processing apparatus sends authentication information for authenticating a user and target area information to said third information processing apparatus via said network, said third information processing apparatus selects said second information processing apparatus corresponding to said target area information obtained from said first information processing apparatus and sends said authentication information obtained from said first information

processing apparatus to said selected second information processing apparatus via said network, and said second information processing apparatus authenticates said first information processing apparatus on the basis of said authentication information received from said third information processing apparatus and sends authentication result information for said first information processing apparatus to said third information processing apparatus via said network."

Thus, the third information processing apparatus selects the second information processing apparatus corresponding to the target area information obtained from the first information processing apparatus and sends the authentication information obtained from the first information processing apparatus to the selected second information processing apparatus via the network.

In contrast, Boltz states that:

"With reference now to FIG. 2, there is shown a portion of the overall network 10 in FIG. 1 and a series of numbers representing a corresponding number of steps, as will be described hereinafter. The mobile station 20, upon powering up, initiates a registration message to the appropriate MSC/VLR (shown as an integrated device 17 in FIG. 2) in the MSC/VLR area 12 and registers the requisite information therein (step 1 as illustrated). The MSC/VLR 17 then signals the HLR 26 requesting the subscriber data associated with the particular registering device 20 (step 2). The HLR database 26, according to the first embodiment, includes a plurality of data records 26A of carrier restriction information on each subscriber, and forwards to the VLR 16 in device 17 (step 3) an instruction to set a restriction flag record 16A in the VLR database 16 if the particular subscriber has any applicable carrier restrictions. For example, if the subscriber has not paid their phone bill for a given carrier (and is deemed a non-paying subscriber by that carrier) the restriction flag 16A associated with that subscriber is set and the MSC/VLR 17 receives an affirmative indication from the HLR 26 that a restriction applies. The subscriber data, along with the set restriction flag 16A for that subscriber, is then stored within the VLR 16 for later use."

See column 3, lines 30 – 53.

Thus, in Boltz the first information processing apparatus 20, which is in local area 18 of service area 12, initiates a registration message (authentication) to the second information processing apparatus 17 located in area 12, which comprises elements 16 and 14. The second information processing apparatus 17, which is located in the corresponding area 12 with respect to the first information processing apparatus 20, then relays the registration message to the third information processing apparatus 26 located in network area 10. That is, the communication

between the first information processing apparatus 20 and the third information processing apparatus 26 is initially established via the second information processing apparatus 17. That is, the third information processing apparatus 26 does not select the second information processing apparatus 17 based on corresponding area information 12 or 18 obtained from the first information processing apparatus 20.

Thus, Boltz fails to teach or suggest that the third information processing apparatus selects the second information processing apparatus corresponding to the target area information obtained from the first information processing apparatus and sends the authentication information obtained from the first information processing apparatus to the selected second information processing apparatus via the network.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is patentable over Boltz, as are dependent Claims 1 – 4 for at least the same reasons.

Independent Claims 5, 9, 10 and 13 recite the same distinguishable limitation at that of Claim 1. Thus, Claims 5, 9, 10 and 13 are patentable over Boltz, as are their corresponding dependent claims for at least the same reasons.

Amended independent Claim 19 also recites the same distinguishable limitation at that of Claim 1. Thus, Claim 19 is patentable over Boltz, as is dependent Claim 20 for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these claim rejections be withdrawn.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims 14-18

Claims 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Higuchi et al. ("Higuchi") (U.S. Publication No. 2003-0050050). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent Claims 14 and 18 recite "selecting second another information processing apparatus corresponding to said first another information processing apparatus on the basis of area information of said first another information processing apparatus."

Higuchi also fails to teach or suggest this selection of the second another information processing apparatus on the basis of area information of the first another information processing apparatus.

Thus, Claims 14 and 18 are patentable over Higuchi, as are their corresponding dependent claims (if any) for at least the same reasons.

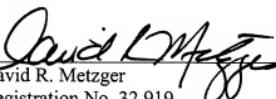
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these claim rejections be withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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